

Message Text

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21-20

ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 AID-20 DRC-01 RSC-01 PM-07 IGA-02 EB-11

CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 DODE-00 AGR-20 SS-20 NSC-10

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P R 310530Z OCT 73

FM AMEMBASSY PHNOM PENH

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 3610

INFO AMEMBASSY SAIGON

AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

AMEMBASSY SEOUL

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

CINCPAC

C O N F I D E N T I A L PHNOM PENH 11876

DEPT ALSO PASS AID FOR AA/SA

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: EAID, CB

SUBJECT: RICE REQUIREMENTS

REF: (A) PHNOM PENH 11598

(B) SAIGON 18675

(C) PHNOM PENH 11506

1. THE PURPOSE OF THIS MESSAGE IS TO UPDATE THE RICE SITUATION
AND TO REITERATE GKR REQUIREMENT FOR THE BALANCE OF THE KOREAN
RICE. FROM OUR VANTAGE POINT THE SITUATION APPEARS AS FOLLOWS:

A. AS OF OCTOBER 28 THERE WERE APPROXIMATELY 9000 M/T OF
RICE IN STOCK IN PHNOM PENH, KOMPONG SOM AND UTAPAO WAREHOUSES.
APPROXIMATELY 8200 M/T OF THIS WAS IN PHNOM PENH WAREHOUSES.

B. BETWEEN NOW AND 15 NOVEMBER WE ARE EXPECTING ABOUT 16,450
M/T OF RICE TO ARRIVE IN PHNOM PENH, KOMPONG SOM AND UTAPAO AS
FOLLOWS: PHNOM PENH 450 M/T BY AIRLIFT, 7100 M/T THAI RICE,
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6400 LOAN FROM VIETNAM; KOMPONG SOM 1500 M/T THAI; UTAPAO 1000

M/T.

C. DURING THE LAST TWO WEEKS OF NOVEMBER WE SHOULD RECEIVE 8,800 M/T OF RICE FROM KOREA (AS REF B MAKES CLEAR THE GVN WILL CONSIDER RELEASE OF 5,000 M/T OF PL 480 RICE FROM KOREA AS THE SECOND PART OF ITS 10,000 M/T LOAN TO THE GKR) AND 5,000 M/T OF PL 480 RICE.

D. THE TOTAL OF THESE ABOVE AMOUNTS OF RICE IS APPROXIMATELY 39,250 M/T OF RICE OR SLIGHTLY MORE THAN TWO MONTHS SUPPLY. THE CRITICAL STOCK LEVEL OF THREE WEEKS SUPPLY WILL BE REACHED BY THE FIRST WEEK IN DECEMBER.

E. APART FROM APPROXIMATELY 5,000 M/T OF PL480 RICE EXPECTED IN PHNOM PENH IN MID-DECEMBER WE CAN COUNT ON NO OTHER SHIPMENTS UNTIL THE NEXT PL 480 ARRIVALS OF 25,000 M/T, NOW HOPEFULLY SOMETIME IN JANUARY.

2. THE EXPECTED 5,000 M/T PL 480 RICE WILL NOT KEEP CAMBODIA ABOVE THE CRITICAL LEVEL FOR DECEMBER, MUCH LESS LAST UNTIL THE FIRST OF THE 25,000 M/T PL 480 RICE ARRIVES IN PHNOM PENH AT BEST BY MID-JANUARY. THE GAP IS THEN ROUGHLY ONE MONTH'S SUPPLY, OR 19,000 M/T FOR CAMBODIA.

3. THEREFORE THE CONCLUSION THAT WE DRAW IS THAT NOT ONLY IS THE REMAINING 11,200 M/T OF KOREAN RICE VERY MUCH REQUIRED TO FILL THE VITAL STOCK GAP BETWEEN EARLY DECEMBER AND MID-JANUARY, BUT IT APPEARS MORE THAN THAT IS STILL NECESSARY. ALSO AS WE HAVE INDICATED BEFORE IN VIEW OF WHAT WE EXPECT WILL BE DIFFICULT DAYS ON THE MEKONG DURING DECEMBER IT WOULD BE ONLY PRUDENT TO COMPLETE AS MUCH OF THE KOREAN AND OTHER SHIPMENTS AS POSSIBLE DURING NOVEMBER.

4. ADVISE.
ENDERS

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: RICE, SUPPLIES, PL 480, FOOD ASSISTANCE
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 31 OCT 1973
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: golinofr
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1973PHNOM11876
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS ENDERS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: n/a
From: PHNOM PENH
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1973/newtext/t1973102/aaaaabdk.tel
Line Count: 96
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: ACTION EA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: (A) PHNOM PENH 11598
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: golinofr
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 20 NOV 2001
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <20-Nov-2001 by kelleyw0>; APPROVED <19-Dec-2001 by golinofr>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: RICE REQUIREMENTS
TAGS: EAID, CB, KS
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005